Jacqueline H. Rogers Secretary, DHCD



January 9, 1989

Carol Ebright
Division of Archaeology
Maryland Geological Survey
2300 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Dear Carol:

Sorry to have taken so long in sending the enclosed information on the Ryder family who owned the land that the Higgins site is located upon. I have enclosed the first page of the May 5 interview for reference purposes and the section of the interview pertaining to Jim Harman's recollections of the Ryder family. Jim Harman's phone number is 850-8526 should you have follow-up questions.

I look forward to receiving a copy of your report for the JPPM library and thank you for offering to send a copy. It will be a most significant contribution to Maryland archaeology.

Sincerely yours,

Wayne E. Clark Museum Director

WEC:njb Enclosure

cc: Jim Harman

Department of Housing and Community Development

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, S.R.2, Box 50A, St. Leonard, Maryland 20685 (301) 586-0050

Anne Arundel County Oral History Project.

Interview II with Jim Harman. Notes by Wayne Clark

May 5, 1988. Interview conducted at JH house in Hanoven, Maryland.

JH stated that he use to visit St. Mary's County in the 1920's. He remembers that much of the fieldwork was done by black workers. The farms of that period were mostly! 50 acres in area with some as large as 300 acres. The hands were paid only a dollar a day and they had to take the pay as no other jobs existed until the navy bases were established after WWII. The first base was at Indian Head which paid the wonderful fee of a dollar an hour. You could tell those blacks who worked at the base by their packerts or cadillacs next to their traditional one to four room houses.

JH used to go to California in St. Mary's County and then over to the Fatuxent to the Seven Cables Hotel which was on an island. He began going here to work in 1928 and was present when a northeaster hit. The storm tide was so high that it washed away the causeway connecting the island to the mainland. JH's father had to come down to wade out over causeway in waist high water. It had rained for 3 days and 3 nights and had amazingly high tidal surge. JH thinks this might have been prior to the 1933 storm. JH worked at the Seven Gable Hotel for a dollar a day as a carpenter. He was related to the Ryker'family who ran the hotel. He was a carpenter apprintice who helped build houses during the summer of 1928 and 1929.

I asked JH for clarification about the gravel operations on Charly's Hill. He stated that the gravel operation was started by the Reich brothers who owned land adjoining Charley Smiths land. As their gravel pit expanded, it extended onto Great Uncle Charley's land. When he found out, he and Great Aunt Miriam sued the Reich borthers for damages. After a successful settlement, Uncle Charley allowed the Reich brothers to continue the gravel removal operations, for a fee. The Reich brothers had a team of horses prior to 1928 that they would bring every day from their operations in Catonsville. They had a team of mules, a pair that would pull a scoop that would hold part of (1/3) of a yard of soil with each pass. They could dump the load were ever they wanted. They also back graded to provide ramps. Gravel mining at that time was just plain, hard work. The Arundel Corporation did not exist in the 1920's so they sold their gravel to make concrete for house construction. They sold bank run gravel. After 1928, mechanical equipment replaced the horses.

JH stated that Margaret Disney told him that she used to gather American Chestnuts on Charley's Hill prior to the Chestnut Jim Harman Interview Three, May 5, 1988, part III.

I asked JH about the name and information about the families on the east side of the Penn Central Railroad along Kitten Branch. He stated that the Ryder family owned a home in this areas opposite the Clark/Smith homeplace. They had a large farm that JH remembers well. It had two houses, one new and one very old. The old house was built from granite stones brought to the area from Baltimore. The house had two huge rooms downstairs with a stairway leading to two rooms upstairs. The cellar was wet and had a spring in it with a brick floor. JH remembers two old ladies who owned and lived in the house, Miss. Becky Ryder. They had a nice farm with two barns, a spring house of granite stone, a smoke house that was very large for the area(16x24 feet). JH speculated that they must have been in the meat business at one time to justify such a large smoke house. The smoke house had a hooks in the rafters to hang the meat on. The smoke house had a fireplace outside and a chimney inside. They could kill 40 hogs and hang them to smoke in the smoke house. They also had a carrage shed, barn complex and a second house, all located to the south of kitten Branch in the area of the Higgins site(18 An...). The Ryders were buried in their front yard 50.5 feet from the house in the family cemetary. The gravestones in the cemetary dated from the 18th and 19th century. They moved the bodies in the cemetary to Meadowridge in 1946. The Ryder's stone house was the finest in the area. Lee Ryder lived in the house. His mother was a Harman and was the same age of JH's mother). The Ryder's also had a pickers shanty and were involved in truck farming. The story and a half picker shanty was located on the hill where the pedestrian overpass crossing for the Weshinghouse parking lot is now located. JH stated that the men were placed upstairs and the woman were placed downstairs. This was a woodframe building with no basement and a fieldstone foundation. JH stated that the spring house at Kitten Branch for the Ryder Farm was beautiful. The farm was

On the northern side of Kitten Branch and east of the railroad track was the hamlet of Emernanville. This little town had four houses in the 20th century prior to its demise in 1945 when construction of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway closed off the road to the community, thus resulting in its abandonment. The people who lived in this town worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Mr. Smith, who was the superindendent of the track gang, had 50 people working for him(JH said what once took 50 people to do is now done with one million dollar machine). White tenants lived in the four houses him the said what once took 50 people to do Fatterson Park and Museum).

Also on the east side of the Fennsylvania Railroad but not in the Kitten Branch area, was the farm of Dr. Winterson. This was a large farm with a beautiful house. He donated land for a one room large farm with a beautiful house. School. The farm was part of school house called the Winterson School. The farm was part of school house called the Winterson School of Caleb Dorsey. The the larger landholdings that once belonged to Caleb Dorsey. The road in this area led to the Patapsco River landing. The road in this area led to the Patapsco River landing. JH was inherited from Allan Dorsey who married a Miss. Craig. JH was inherited from Allan Dorsey became mentally disturbed. He knew Miss Craig. Allan Dorsey became mentally disturbed. He knew Miss Craig. Allan Dorsey became mentally disturbed to the property but the buildings and grounds went to ruin due to the property but the buildings and grounds went to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care. Miss Criag son also let the farm go to ruin before lack of care lack of care.

JH stated that Caleb Dorsey could ride ten miles without leaving his own property. His house still stands in leaving his own property was purchased by DNR this year which Elkridge(ed.note: The house was purchased by DNR this year which has plans of leasing it out to someone for free in exchange for them restoring the house).

JH stated that his Grandfather Harman stated that "nobody JH stated that his Grandfather Harman stated that "nobody The Harmans were hard They were



Telephone Conversation Jim Harmon 2-9-89

Rider Houses located ext on road that ran parallel to RR. Began opposite pedestrian bridge at Whose 4 ran parallel to RR4

eventually crossed RR at Annes crossing"
Pickers shanty - Istory frame - on hill above parking lot
Follow road down hill frame house to left and stone house

faither down road.

Two Rider women lived in house. Two 19 rooms clownstairs w/ kitchen addition. Hall between 2 rms. 19 1 rm cellou with spring (always wet). Two 19 bedrooms. Porch on Eside. Beautiful Town by flowers is cernetary. Stone bldg is smokehouse. Down nill to RR a springhouse at crossing. Rented the frame house out.

land found by McGuen a Black man. Grew beans.

truck faim. Good faim land.

Rider's in Linthicum, Lee R m. a Harmon 4 had a daughtera George Riderwas also in the area 4 may still be there? The Jackson's owned land less than a mile on old rd. (Stoney Run?) Black family.

Dick Disney collected lands his day. Marg. Disney has

them.

Rider property ended at Kithen Branch - area across Kithen Branch owned by howack a newcomen to the area.

Rider property went approx to the 170 highway bound.